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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 000263

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING PUBLIC AWARENESS ESF PROPOSAL

REF: 04 STATE 260881

1. Post requests ESF funding for an anti-trafficking in persons campaign targeted primarily at East and South Asian workers, the most vulnerable labor communities in Kuwait. Project FALCON (Fostering Awareness about Labor CONditions) would increase public awareness of trafficking in Kuwait, a destination country; inform workers of their rights under Kuwaiti labor law; and provide laborers with contact numbers of resources should they fall victim to trafficking or abuse. While the principal objective is prevention, the project also includes a victim assistance component.

2. There is a justified need for an anti-trafficking campaign in Kuwait. The Department classified Kuwait as a tier 2 country in the 2004 Trafficking in Persons report. From the report: "Trafficking victims ... come to Kuwait as domestic servants but are subsequently abused by their employers or coerced into situations of debt bondage or involuntary servitude." Victims suffer "involuntary sexual servitude, coerced labor, verbal and physical abuse, and the withholding of their passports or other required travel documents." Project FALCON would provide one method to combat trafficking and abuse in Kuwait.

3. Project FALCON would consist of two parts: wallet-sized information cards and public service announcements in newspapers. First, Post would produce laminated cards for distribution to nationals of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and other origin countries upon arrival at Kuwait International Airport. In addition, cards would be available at health clinics in Kuwait that perform the required physical for labor permit renewal. The cards, printed in the predominant language of each of the countries listed, would highlight protections afforded to all workers under Kuwaiti labor law. The reverse side would include pertinent information targeted at domestic workers such as contact numbers for their embassies, local police and Kuwaiti government ministries. The plan calls for the production of 900,000 cards, which would be distributed until depletion of the stock, estimated to last for one year. The second component would entail publishing the same information in advertisement form in two local newspapers. An Arabic-language paper would carry announcements in Arabic and Urdu on a rotating basis while an English-language daily would have them in English, Bengali, Hindi, and Tagalog. The announcements would appear once-a-week in each newspaper for a six-month period.

4. Post would administer card distribution in conjunction with the Kuwaiti Ministries of Interior and Social Affairs and Labor via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministries would work with the airport authorities to distribute the cards to anyone entering Kuwait on an employment visa. Post would directly oversee the placement of the public service announcements in newspapers. In both cases, Post would act as a silent partner with the appropriate government or non-governmental entity to ensure the public face of Project FALCON remain Kuwaiti.

5. Project evaluation would consist of contacting the embassies of origin countries in Kuwait to monitor any increase in labor inquiries or reports of trafficking or abuse. Post will attempt to monitor the same with Kuwaiti ministries and police. Post will review progress after one month of project implementation and every three months thereafter. Since statistics from Kuwaiti ministries or origin country embassies may not be accurate or shared with Post, it may not be possible to measure project performance precisely although Post anticipates an initial uptick in reports of trafficking and abuse as the working population becomes more informed. Embassy contact, poloff Richard Michaels, will follow up with these organizations.

6. The estimated cost for Project FALCON is \$99,000. The production of 900,000 cards in various languages will total approximately \$16,250 including translation fees. The newspaper announcements will cost around \$82,750: \$40,250 for one advertisement in an Arabic-language newspaper for 26 weeks and another \$42,500 for the same ad placement in an English-language daily. There are no other proposed funding

donors aside from the ESF. While the host government would not provide monetary resources for the project, they would provide logistical support including manpower for the distribution of cards.

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